Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4992
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH, TZ, ZAO

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE PRESS COVERAGE OF TANZANIAN SUMMIT

- 1. NOTICIAS OF SEPTEMBER 8 HEADLINED DECISION OF FIVE FRONTLINE LEADERS TO INCREASE THEIR "SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE" IN ZIMBABWE, BUT DEVOTED MOST OF ITS COVERAGE TO FAILURE OF THE COMPETING ZIMBABWEAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY FACTIONS TO UNITE. NOTICIAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE "PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE (TANZANIAN) MEETING" WAS TO MERGE THE DIFFERENT ZIMBABWEAN GROUPS, THE DAR ES SALAAM "NEGOTIATIONS ENDED IN AN IMPASSE."
- 2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH TANZANIAN JOURNALIST, NOTICIANS REPORTED THAT ZANU LEADER ROBERT MUGABE CONFIRMED THE FAILURE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN GROUPS TO REUNITE AND IMPLICITLY BLAMED THE LACK OF SUCCESS ON ZAPU STALWART JOSHUA NKOMO. MUGABE SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT WITH "RESPECT TO UNITY OF THE FACTIONS, THERE

WAS NO PROGRESS TOWARD UNITY. THERE WAS ONLY PROGRESS TOWARD THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE." MUGABE CLAIMED THAT THE SUMMIT LEADERS COULD NOT CONVINCE NKOMO TO JOIN THE OTHER ZIMBABWEAN GROUPS. CONTINUING, MUGABE ASSERTED THAT NKOMO AND HIS FACTION WERE NOT COMMITTED TO THE ARMED STUGGLE AND HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS NOW BEING WAGED EXCLUSIVELY BY ZANU.

3. TALKING TO MOZAMBICAN NEWSMEN IN BEIRA, WHERE HIS PLANE STOPPED EN ROUTE TO BOTSWANA, PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA SAID HE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF FULLY WITH THE DECISION OF THE OTHER FOUR FRONT-LINE LEADERS TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF ARMED STUGGLE IN RHODEISA. KHAMA ALSO SAID THAT THE DAR MEETING "HAD BEEN FRUITFUL" AND THAT HE WAS "ENCOURAGED TO KNOW THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE ARMED STURGGLE UNTIL THE ILLEGAL RHODESIAN REGIME IS COMPLETELY DISMATLED."

4. NOTICIAS ALSO CARRIED A BACKPAGE ARTICLE CONTAINING EXCERPTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH RHODESIA
PRIME MINISTER IAM SMITH IN WHICH SMITH IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID
HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT A BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT EVEN
IF IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GUARANTEES FOR THE WHITE
MINORITY. SMITH WARNED THAT TO DO SO "WOULD BE
TO END RHODESIA AND THE CIVILIZATION THAT WE HAVE
HERE." SMITH ALSO SAID THAT RHODESIA, "ALONEG"
COULD CONTINUE TO HANDLE THE MILITARY SITUATION
BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "THE UNITED STATES
MUST NOT GIVE UP THE ROLE THAT IT IS PLAYING IN
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WESTERN WORLD." EDITORIALIZING,
NOTICIAS CONCLUDED THAT SMITH BY MAKING SUCH
STATEMENTS IS ONCE AGAIN "TRYING TO INTERNATIONALIZE
THE CONFLICT IN ZIMBABWE."

5. LOCAL MEDIA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE BROAD COVERAGE OF THE LAST KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING, BUT WITH NO EDITORIALIZING.

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